

## **The Challenge of Dengue**

On-screen text: La Paz, Honduras

On-screen graphic: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Logo, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Gunther Wilhelm Torres Bautista, Director, Roberto Suazo Cordoba Hospital: We have always had dengue, but never, never so many cases like in 2019. Where the hospital was overwhelmed. We had patients even in the hallways.

Emily Zielinski Gutierrez, DrPH, Director, CDC Central America Region: They were really overwhelmed with patients during the 2019 dengue outbreak. They had over 2,000 which is the highest they'd ever had before.

Torres Bautista: We had to put up a tent outside like a triage. Patients with fever were identified as a dengue suspect and sent to the hospital.

Zielinski Gutierrez: This is a hospital like a lot of hospitals in Honduras, in Guatemala, throughout the region, where they're just figuring out how to do absolutely the best they can.

Torres Bautista: The capacity of the hospital to be able to respond was surpassed. We could not respond to everyone.

Zielinski Gutierrez: When you have an epidemic dengue year you've got to think through everybody who needs support. The data pieces that we often look at and the laboratory pieces, but also how do we support the human resources in the hospital to do their job.

Torres Bautista: I think the population has not yet understood that eliminating mosquito breeders will avoid having deaths because of dengue.

Zielinski Gutierrez: The question is, how do we intervene ahead of time that we reduce the likelihood of having these massive epidemic dengue years. That's the question we have to confront in public health.

On-screen text: To learn more about CDC's global health work, please visit [www.cdc.gov/globalhealth](http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth). Follow @CDCGlobal on social media: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Flickr.